

York 22/11 mo. 1870

Dear Dr Gray

After a protracted absence from home, I hasten to acknowledge thy kindness in sending seeds of Lithospermum longiflorum & Silene tenuifolia, & plants of Lewisia rediviva. All these I value very much & sincerely thank thee for the same. Already some of the seeds of the Lithospermum have vegetated, & 4 or 5 of the plants of Lewisia are growing well.

As regards obtaining roots of the Lithospermum & Silenes, & especially of Silene regia, I would say "By all means if possible, even should it cost 5 times £2" to obtain them. A good supply of the roots of the Silene regia alone would be worth this. The collector must however exercise a care not to take too freely.

For though I saw an enthusiastic
"Collector" in a horticultural sense,
I saw enough of a Botanist too
most jealously to guard from
any dangerous injury the locality
of a rare or interesting plant!

Seeds or roots of *Delphinium*
tricornis we should also be
very glad to receive.

I learn from my Manager that,
in accordance with my desire,
a collection of alpine & Herba-
ceous plants was forwarded ^{to the address *} by
Cunard steamer (direct to Boston
as requested), about the 27th
of last month. This comprised
nearly all of the plants asked
for, & I trust they will ere this
have been rec^d in good condition.
If not, I will send another lot
in a wooden case.

As from the lateness of the
season there was some risk
in sending tender ferns, we de-
layed sending these at same time,
purposing to do so in spring.

Hoping to hear ere long of their
safe arrival

I remain thy fr^d & very resp^t

Jas Backhouse

P.S. I lately rec^d some very fine
examples of Chilean *Hymenophy-
llum* & *Trichomanes*! By far the
finest that ever crossed the Equa-
tor I imagine. They are very diffi-
cult subjects to import alive.
I regard it as quite "a triumph".

* addressed to Harvard University, Boston